

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 406
By McLeary

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Chancellor Joe C. Morris
of Jackson.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Chancellor Joe C. Morris; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Morris was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to ensure the administration of justice and equity under the law for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Joe Morris was born in Jackson, Tennessee, on October 11, 1935, the son of the late John and Margueritte Craven Morris; he graduated from Jackson High School, Lambuth University, and the University of Tennessee Law School; and

WHEREAS, prior to his appointment to the Chancery Court, Joe Morris was a field representative for U.S. Congressman Ray Blanton, practiced law, and served as a City Judge in Jackson from 1972-76; in 1976, he was appointed to serve the remainder of an unexpired term on the Chancery Court of the 26th Judicial District, which was comprised of Madison, Chester, and Henderson Counties; and

WHEREAS, elected thereafter to consecutive eight-year terms, Chancellor Morris served with great ability and diligence, earning the respect of his peers on the bench, members of the legal profession, and the general public for the exemplary quality and fair-mindedness of his rulings and his great legal acumen; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Morris was truly a product of his community, and he understood his fellow citizens in a most personal and caring way; and

WHEREAS, his deep roots in the community gave him a special insight into its people and the legal issues that came before his court; and

WHEREAS, renowned for his common sense, good humor, and humanity, Chancellor Morris had a compassion for the average person that was sincere and refreshing; his human touch will be hard to replace on the bench; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Morris was an active and devout communicant of St. Mary's Catholic Church; he was also a member of Elks Lodge #192 and was described by friends as "a pillar of the community for many years"; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Morris was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Linda Gay Smith Morris, and was the proud father of Conlin, Cleve, and Drew Morris, and grandfather of Ayla Morris; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Morris leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional jurist and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Chancellor Joe C. Morris, reflecting fondly upon

his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to justice and equity under the law and living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Chancellor Morris.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.